

REMARKS

Claims 1-56 are pending. In the Office Action mailed December 13, 2005, the Examiner took the following action: (1) objected to claims 1, 16, 29, and 44 due to informalities; and (2) rejected claims 1-8, 11-21, 24-36, 39-49 and 52-56 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Ozaki (U.S. 2003/0050723). The Examiner further acknowledged that claims 9-10, 22-23, 37-38, and 50-51 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of their respective base and intermediate claims.

Applicants express appreciation to the Examiner for acknowledging the existence of allowable subject matter. Without comment or prejudice as to the merits of the Examiner's rejections, Applicants hereby amend claims and cancel claims in order to expedite the issuance of the subject matter acknowledged to be allowable by the Examiner, and without prejudice to the filing of any subsequent continuation or divisional applications. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 9 (which the Examiner acknowledged as being allowable) thereby placing claim 1 in condition for allowance. Claim 9 has been canceled. Claims 2-8 and 11-15 depend from allowable claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-8 and 11-15 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of its respective base claim (claim 1) thereby placing claim 10 in condition for allowance.

Claim 16 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 22 (which the Examiner acknowledged as being allowable) thereby placing claim 16 in condition for allowance. Claim 22 has been canceled. Claims 17-21 and 24-28 depend from allowable claim 16. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16-21 and 24-28 are now in condition for allowance.

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Claim 23 has been amended to include the limitations of it respective base claim (claim 16) thereby placing claim 23 in condition for allowance.

Claim 29 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 37 (which the Examiner acknowledged as being allowable) thereby placing claim 29 in condition for allowance. Claim 37 has been canceled. Claims 30-36 and 39-43 depend from allowable claim 29. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 29-36 and 39-43 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 38 has been amended to include the limitations of it respective base claim (claim 29) thereby placing claim 38 in condition for allowance.

Claim 44 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 50 (which the Examiner acknowledged as being allowable) thereby placing claim 44 in condition for allowance. Claim 50 has been canceled. Claims 45-49 and 52-56 depend from allowable claim 44. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 44-49 and 52-56 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 51 has been amended to include the limitations of it respective base claim (claim 44) thereby placing claim 51 in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit pending claims 1-8, 10-21, 23-36, 38-49, and 51-56 are now in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining matters that may be handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: March 13, 2006

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